

Introduced by Senator Dutton

February 18, 2005

An act to add Section 8588.1 to the Government Code, relating to emergency services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 546, as introduced, Dutton. Office of Emergency Services: public-private partnerships.

The California Emergency Services Act sets forth the duties of the Office of Emergency Services in overseeing and coordinating various emergency response programs in the state.

This bill would require the office to take actions that are necessary to share facilities and systems that would, among other things, include private businesses and nonprofit organizations in a voluntary program that would integrate private sector emergency preparedness measures into governmental disaster planning programs to the extent that the cost of the program is reimbursed by the private sector.

The bill would create the Disaster Resistant Communities Account in the General Fund and would require that all reimbursable costs be deposited in that fund for expenditure by the office for the costs associated with the program.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 8588.1 is added to the Government
- 2 Code, to read:

1 8588.1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares that this state
2 can only truly be prepared for the next disaster if the public and
3 private sector collaborate.

4 (b) The Office of Emergency Services shall take necessary
5 actions to include private businesses and nonprofit organizations
6 within its responsibilities to prepare the state for disasters under
7 this chapter. All participation by businesses and nonprofit
8 associations in this program shall be voluntary.

9 (c) The office may do any of the following:

10 (1) Provide guidance to business and nonprofit organizations
11 representing business interests on how to integrate private sector
12 emergency preparedness measures into governmental disaster
13 planning programs.

14 (2) Conduct outreach programs to encourage business to work
15 with governments and community associations to better prepare
16 the community and their employees to survive and recover from
17 disasters.

18 (3) Develop systems so that government, businesses, and
19 employees can exchange information during disasters to protect
20 themselves and their families.

21 (4) Develop programs so that businesses and government can
22 work cooperatively to advance technology that will protect the
23 public during disasters.

24 (d) The office may share facilities and systems for the
25 purposes of subdivision (b) with the private sector to the extent
26 the cost for their use are reimbursed by the private sector. All
27 costs reimbursed under this section shall be deposited in the
28 Disaster Resistant Communities Account and shall only be used
29 for costs associated with this program.

30 (e) Proprietary information or information protected by state
31 or federal privacy laws, shall not be disclosed under this
32 program.

33 (f) Notwithstanding Section 11005, donations and grants may
34 be accepted for this program by the office and shall not be
35 subject to Section 11005.

36 (g) The Disaster Resistant Communities Account is hereby
37 created in the General Fund. Upon appropriation by the
38 Legislature, the Director of the Office of Emergency Services
39 may expend the money in the account for the costs associated
40 within this section.

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